

DR. CADE BRUMLEY
STATE SUPERINTENDENT



CLAIBORNE BUILDING
1201 N 3RD ST.
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ASSURANCES OF COMPLIANCE WITH NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has recommended to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approximately \$37 million in competitive funding for local educational agencies (LEAs) to support various priorities. The majority of these funds, allocated through our coordinated Super Application process, are federally provided. Your LEA has been selected to receive a portion of these funds to enhance student outcomes.

The United States Department of Education (ED) has made clear their position that certain activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are discriminatory in nature. LDOE will adhere to their interpretation as an agency and, furthermore, will not jeopardize Louisiana's portion of federal funds which support endeavors such as school lunches, schools in lower-income communities, charter schools launch, and our science of reading efforts.

Louisiana statute¹ has previously defined DEI as “any program, activity, initiative, event, instruction, action, or policy that classifies or references individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, culture, gender identity, or sexual orientation or promotes differential or preferential treatment of individuals on the basis of such classification.”

As a recipient of federal funds, your LEA should confer and consult with legal counsel to determine if any activities within your system are discriminatory. Competitive federal funds will not be released to your LEA in the absence of the following signed assurances affirming:

1. The LEA ensures its current and future compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits exclusion from participation, denial of the benefits of, or subjection to discrimination under programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, of any person in the United States on the ground of race, color, or national origin.
2. The LEA acknowledges that Executive Order 14151², “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing,” seeks to terminate all discriminatory programs, including DEI programs and activities, “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences within the United States of America.
3. The LEA acknowledges that ED’s Dear Colleague Letter³ (DCL), Dated February 14, 2025, seeks to clarify the nondiscrimination obligations of schools and other entities that receive federal financial assistance from ED. The LEA acknowledges ED’s DCL seeks to reaffirm that discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin is, has been, and will continue to be illegal. The LEA further confirms receipt of LDOE’s letter⁴, dated February 19, 2025, providing notice of ED’s interpretation and implications.

¹ <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382370>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>

³ <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf>

⁴ <https://doe.louisiana.gov/docs/default-source/links-for-newsletters/dr-cade-brumley's-letter-to-system-leaders-02192025.pdf>

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4. The LEA shall cooperate in any enforcement or compliance review activities by ED of the aforementioned obligations. Enforcement may include investigation, arbitration, mediation, litigation, and monitoring of any settlement agreements that may result from these actions. The LEA shall comply with information requests, on-site compliance reviews, and reporting requirements.
5. The LEA acknowledges the absence of DEI programs that treat students differently based on race, engage in racial stereotyping, or create hostile environments for students of particular races within their LEA and an intent to remain consistent with this position until further notice.⁵
6. The LEA acknowledges and agrees that it must require sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, and assignees to comply with assurances 1-5 above.

The undersigned official(s) certifies that the official(s) has read and understands the LEA's obligations as herein described, that any information submitted in conjunction with this assurances document is accurate and complete, and that the LEA is in compliance with the aforementioned nondiscrimination requirements.

Local Educational Agency

Date

Signature of Authorized Official

⁵ <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/frequently-asked-questions-about-racial-preferences-and-stereotypes-under-title-vi-of-civil-rights-act-109530.pdf>